

October 2015



BARRON COUNTY

Department Updates

Highway Department

Mark Servi Highway Commissioner

As we move into fall the Highway Department is working to complete our projects before the weather says stop. We participated in a weather webinar provided by our forecasting service earlier this week, and with the El Nino weather pattern we are in for the foreseeable future, we should be seeing a little warmer temps than normal, and normal to below normal precipitation. While that might prove good for the completion of the construction season, such a forecast proves problematic for the early winter season. We are very concerned that we will be dealing with above normal freezing rain events. But thanks to the foresight of the County Board, we have an adequate supply of salt in our salt shed to help us deal with whatever comes in the early winter. We were able to order and receive our entire winter order of salt during the early fall time period, which provides us with a better price on the salt we use.

We are continuing to work on the CTH P project. As the grading contractor advances with the widening of roadway, we are coming close behind with the paving. Our goal is to complete all the paving with the exception of the final

layer of asphalt, which will be placed in 2016. The rain events of the summer and fall have had an impact on the ability of the grading contractor to keep on schedule. It is very difficult to build a road from mud! But they continue to put great effort into the project.

Our work for the towns, cities and villages in Barron County is also on schedule to be wrapped up. The recent heavy rains lead to some issues on Town roads, and we have been busy replacing culverts that failed. This work, along with our normal culvert work, had lead us to some fairly interesting projects, and a few creative solutions.

Work also continues on future projects. On the CTH A project (from CTH AA to the Red Cedar River) design is almost finished, real estate acquisition is almost complete and negotiations with the utilities that need to relocate is ongoing. The project is scheduled to be bid early next year, and constructed in the 2016 construction season. This project is being funded with 80% federal funds and 20% county funds. There are also several ongoing bridge replacement projects in design. In the Town of Cumberland, the 7th Street bridge over Johnson Creek is in the final design and is scheduled for construction in 2016. The CTH A

bridge over Sioux Creek and the CTH NN bridge over Spring Creek are in design and on schedule for replacement in 2017. In the City of Rice Lake, the Main Street bridge rehabilitation project is just beginning the design phase. We also recently submitted project request to WISDOT for several bridge replacement projects and a pavement replacement project. We have not hear if any of the projects will be fortunate and receive funding.

Lastly, contracts have been signed with Northwest Builders for our new storage shed. We anticipate construction to start in late October, and the building to be delivered in early December, with occupancy in the new building happening in January of 2016.

Remember when you come upon a work zone, slow down and pay attention. **Our lives depend on it.**



Aging & Disability Resource Center

Leslie Fijalkiewicz, Director

“Confusing” “Nightmare” “Work!” “Ugghhh”

These are the responses received when I asked ADRC staff to tell me the first thing that pops into their head when I say “Medicare Part D”.

Open enrollment for Medicare Part D is a very hectic time in our office, but more importantly, it is a difficult time for Medicare beneficiaries. It is a 7-week period when people on Medicare have to choose their prescription drug plan for the coming year. The process is time-consuming, confusing and can only be done online. As you can imagine that presents a bit of a problem for some of our non-computer using seniors. Last year we helped 478 people in 34 days with this process. Given the fact that 10,000 people in

this country turn 65 EVERYDAY, we’ve brought in some “reinforcements” to help during this period!

As an Aging & Disability Resource Center, one of the services we provide is assisting youth with disabilities who will be graduating from high school and transitioning into the adult world. Whether they are looking for opportunities to live independently, applying for disability, or want to look at other options, our staff work with the individuals, their families, schools and other providers to assist in that process.

Once again, our nutrition program was the recipient of a competitive grant aimed at modernizing our nutrition related services and increasing our program participation. The project for this grant includes adding a weekly salad bar at the Cumberland and Barron Senior Centers

noon meal.

And just a reminder, our website is a great place to go for up-to-date information about programs, services, and advocacy opportunities for older adults, persons with disabilities and their families and friends. Be sure to check it out www.adrconnections.org. The other great place to stay informed is by reading the Barron County Senior Review, which will soon be changing its name to the Barron County Review. Since the information in this monthly paper is really for adults of all ages, it seemed like a name change would be more inclusive.